

Amendment 3372 —To return to the Treasury any emergency funding not spent within two years of enactment.

This amendment would do the following:

- require any emergency funding not obligated within two years of enactment to be immediately rescinded;
- require any funding obligated, but remaining unspent two years after the date of obligation to be rescinded;
- sunset after two years, any new office or program created by or as a result of this legislation; and
- sunset after two years the increase to 90 percent for the federal cost share for Corps projects funded in the underlying bill.

This amendment would ensure emergency funding for Hurricane Sandy is obligated and spent in a timely fashion to help to those in need.

We have seen time and again that federal funds provided for emergencies go unspent often for many years or even decades after the event.

More than a decade after the tragedy of September 11, 2001 and seven years after Hurricane Katrina, millions of dollars in “emergency” federal funding provided in the wake of these events remains unspent.

After these tragedies, taxpayers gave generously to help meet the immediate needs of those suffering.

Yet, years later, money rushed out of the Treasury to rebuild and restore sits unused, or even worse, is being diverted to unrelated local projects.

This Amendment Would Solve This Problem By Rescinding Unspent Grants After 2 Years

Specifically, it requires any emergency funding not obligated within two years of enactment be immediately rescinded.

Further, any funding obligated, but remaining unspent two years after the date of obligation would also be rescinded.

Finally, the amendment would sunset after two years, any new office or program created by or as a result of this legislation.

According to CBO, Two-Thirds of the Spending in this Bill will Be Spent After 2015

The Congressional Budget Office' analysis of the president's request for Hurricane Sandy funding predicts a similar pattern is likely to occur with emergency funding Congress plans to provide the northeast.

CBO projects roughly \$21.7 billion of the disaster aid request will actually be spent through FY 2014.

Meanwhile, 64 percent of the funds, \$38.7 billion, are unlikely to be spent until FY 2015, nearly 22 months from today.

Emergency funds meant to address immediate needs should be provided swiftly to ensure victims are assisted quickly and efficiently.

Congress should utilize the emergency spending process to provide adequate funding for the immediate short-term needs.

As the region rebuilds and the true costs of long-term restoration projects become clear, Congress should take a thoughtful approach to assess future federal commitments for long-term projects not in need of immediate emergency funding.

As has always been the case, Congress can provide ongoing support for those rebuilding.

However, this funding should not be designated as an emergency and instead should be considered as part of regular spending bills.

Although the amendment sunsets after two years any new office or program created by or as a result of this Act, Congress will retain the prerogative to extend such offices or programs at that time, should that be necessary.

Establishing a sunset date will ensure Congress revisits and reassesses the federal role in rebuilding the region in two years.

This amendment would sunset after two years the increase to 90 percent for the federal cost share for Corps projects funded in the underlying bill

In the Army of Corps of Engineers Construction account the Senate bill provides \$3.5 billion in funding.

Nearly \$3 billion from this account is directed toward reducing flood risk and flood costs in areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

The legislation also increases the federal cost share for projects funded with this appropriation to 90 percent.

This amendment would sunset this increase in the cost share after two years, returning the ratio to current law, which requires a 65 percent (federal) and 35 percent (non-federal) cost share.